



Connecticut Department of Public Health

For Immediate Release For More Information:

October 18, 2019 Av Harris av.harris@ct.gov (860) 509-7270

NUMBER OF VAPING-RELATED LUNG INJURY CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTICUT CLIMBS TO 34

GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE SUGGESTING VAPING AND E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS CONTAINING THC PLAYING MAJOR ROLE IN DISEASE OUTBREAK

The 34 cases involve residents from seven Connecticut counties: Fairfield (17), New Haven (9), New London (3), Hartford (2), Litchfield (1), Tolland (1), and Windham (1).

The age breakdown of the patients is as follows: Under 18 years of age (5), 18 to 24 years of age (9), 25 to 34 years of age (8), 35 years of age and older (12). According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of October 15, 2019, a total of 1,479 cases of vaping-related lung injury had been reported from 49 states and 1 U.S. territory.

The CDC also reported 33 deaths had been confirmed in 24 states.

Connecticut has seen one fatality.

The latest national findings suggest that products containing THC – a psychoactive component derived from marijuana – are playing a major role in the outbreak.

Among patients in Connecticut, 26 patients reported using vaping products containing THC in the 90-days before becoming sick whereas two patients reported exclusive use of nicotine-containing vaping products; the specific types of vaping products used by six patients are still under investigation.

"These vaping-related lung injuries are a national public health crisis," said DPH Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell. "We continue to work with the CDC and other partners to find out the specific root cause of these troubling lung injuries. While the investigation continues, I am asking Connecticut residents not to use e-cigarette or vaping products that contain THC. I also want to remind everyone that as a matter of public health, there is no safe tobacco product."



Since the specific cause or causes of lung injury are not yet known, the only way to assure that people are not at risk while the investigation continues is to consider refraining from use of all e-cigarette and vaping products.

Vaping/Tobacco Cessation Resources for Youth

- Text "DITCHJUUL" to 88-709
- PHONE APP
 quitSTART APP at teen.smokefree.gov/
- ONLINE
 CommittoQuitCT.com
 BecomeAnEX.org
- > CALL 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) has specialized program for teens Spanish is 1-855-DEJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569)

Vaping/Tobacco Cessation Resources - General

CALL the Connecticut Quitline
Available 24/7 to all CT residents
1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)
Spanish is 1-855-DEJELO-YA (1-855-335-3569)

➤ONLINE CommittoQuitCT.com (CT Quitline) BecomeAnEX.org

PHONE APP

Download QuitGuide from smokefree.gov/